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proper systems of charity administration, finance, education and the management of public utilities.

Professor Goodnow sees little hope for immediate improvement in American municipal conditions. "We can hardly help believing that the economic and social conditions existing in many of the cities of the United States . . . are such as to make good popular city government extremely difficult, if not impossible . . . until changes in those conditions have been made." Changes must be made in our systems of nominations and elections, civil service, finance and administration in general before we can hope for substantial improvement.

CHESTER LLOYD JONES.

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**Hamilton, Angus.** *Problems of the Middle East.* Pp. xvi, 484. London: Eveleigh Nash, 1909.

The recent diplomacy of Great Britain and United States in the East has not been characterized by aggressiveness. Mr. Hamilton believes that this policy has seriously endangered Great Britain's ascendancy in the region to the northwest of India. He recounts at length the numerous attempts to bind to England by treaty, Persia, Afghanistan and Tibet. England's diplomacy in all three cases has proven less than a match for that of Russia. In Persia the recent delimitation of spheres of interest has given England the barren waste, while Russia has acquired a command over territory large in extent and fertile in resources. Previous treaty arrangements with Afghanistan and Tibet should have prevented the entrance of Russia into the important diplomatic position she now holds in those countries.

A detailed study is made of English trade interests in the Persian Gulf and the probable effect that the Bagdad railway will have upon them. Mr. Hamilton urges upon his government to demand an active share in the construction of the railway. England should have at least the command of the river trade in Mesopotamia and the control of the railway in that section. Otherwise Germany, whose trade interests are rapidly growing, will thrust herself between the spheres of influence now held by England and Russia and thus introduce a fourth power in the already complicated Persian muddle.

A chapter on the Hedjaz railway shows the surprising success that the Sultan has had in securing contributions from Mohammedans everywhere for financing a railroad to the holy cities of Arabia. This may well be a warning to those countries controlling large Mahomedan populations as to what may happen if they fall out of sympathy with their governments. Two other chapters treat of the rise of the young Turks and the passing of Korea. The latter chapter adds but little to what has been often told. These subjects seem at first to be unrelated to the problems of the middle East, but the connection of Turkey with Asia Minor problems and the treaty between Japan and England, involving, as it does, the possible protection of India, justify the inclusion of these apparently unrelated topics.

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